

January 5, 1984

LB 49

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. Quite a way to start off the new legislative session in 1984 but we might as well do it right and....

PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Yes.

PRESIDENT: Excuse me. I guess it is my responsibility to ask Senator Goodrich if he wants this to lay over because of this motion or whether you want to take it up at this time.

SENATOR GOODRICH: No, the motion is so ridiculous let's take it up now and dispose of it.

PRESIDENT: Very well, Senator. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Ah, the fun is just beginning, gang, here we go. Senator Goodrich has introduced a bill that he considers to be a fine piece of legislation and thinks my motion to kill is ridiculous. Any of you who have ever introduced a bill that somebody has had a kill motion on will know that you have the same feeling so it is understandable that he would react that way. Let me tell you though it is not the kill motion that is ridiculous but this legislation itself that is in fact ridiculous. Let us start back fifty years ago, 1933, a very depressing time in a depression in our country and this state and elsewhere and when we found the fact that we needed to move toward a unique system and that system is public power, we found that we were not able to get power to the rural areas of this state. About five percent of our rural areas, our rural farm homes were able to receive electricity back in those days and they were not able to receive through private power the sort of services they felt were needed. Well, they decided back in 1933 they were going to change that in the State of Nebraska and we moved boldly forward and we decided to introduce legislation, LB 310 back in 1933 was passed, and did establish the authority to buy out and establish public power. Now there was additional hemming and hawing and work that was done over the years, but then in 1939 some real effort began to buy out all private power in the State